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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

NCR Docket No. 9747

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JUN 10 2004

In re Application of:

Steven B. Cohen

Group Art Unit: 2172

Technology Center 2100

Application No.: 09/863,638

Examiner: Fred I. Ehichioya

Filed: May 23, 2001

For: IMPROVING PERFORMANCE OF JOIN OPERATIONS IN PARALLEL
DATABASE SYSTEMS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 3/3/2004

This is a reply to the action dated March 3, 2004, in this application. Claims 1 - 30 are pending. All have been rejected. Applicant asks the Office to enter the amendments to the claims and reconsider this application.

Amendments to the Claims are shown in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, on

6-3-04 Sallie Spicer
Date Sallie Spicer